

THEATRE HORROR WAS INEXCUSABLE

Boy's Cry of "Fire" Precipitates Wild Struggle.

DEATH KNEEL FOR MORE THAN SCORE

Giant Miner Rushes for Exit, and in Moment Pleasure-Seekers Are Piled Up in Fighting, Suffocating Mass—Broken Film and Flash of Light the Cause.

Canonsburg, Pa., August 27.—Twenty-six dead from suffocation, twenty-five seriously injured, thirty suffering from minor hurts—that is the human toll exacted last night during the inexcusable panic at a moving picture show in the Canonsburg Opera House. The moving picture machine developed a slight defect. A small boy shouted "fire" at the same time starting for the narrow exit. Bolus Dubrowski, a foreign miner, one of the dead, a giant in proportions, jumped from his seat and ran wildly for the same exit. In a moment there was a fighting, struggling mass after him. At the head of a narrow stairway, which led to the street, the foreigner tripped. As he rolled down the stairs he swept others before him who were waiting their turn to enter the theatre, and soon there was an indescribable pile of human beings at the foot of the steps, battling like mad. With the exception of three persons, all of the dead are local people.

All Over in Short Time. It was all over within a short time. Volunteer firemen, several policemen and a few level-headed citizens untangled the human mass. The unhurt and those slightly injured were pulled from the top of the pile. As they gained the street, they ran screaming like maniacs to all parts of the small town. Next came the more seriously injured, and these were sent home or taken to nearby houses, while a few were rushed, unconscious, to the hospitals.

Then the rescuers came to the silent forms of those who had reached the fatal stairway first. One after another the victims, many of them women and small children, were carried to the sidewalk. All had been suffocated, and the faces showed terror.

Coroner James Heffran has begun a rigid investigation. He arrived at the scene early to-day, and within a short time had selected a jury. The moving picture machine operator was about to conclude the first performance when a film parted. Some of the audience already had commenced to leave the building and other persons were on the stairway coming up. Dubrowski's wild flight through the theatre and his subsequent stumble down the stairs into those entering the building, was the beginning of the death struggling jam at the foot of the stairs. The bodies clogged the doorway. Men walked over them and fought for positions of safety until, overwhelmed by the weight from the moving mass, they too, were crushed to death. When the doorway had been filled, still other persons walked over the bodies of those who had gone down, and breaking the glass transom over the door crawled through and dropped into the street.

Endeavors to Stop Panic. During this time Manager Ferguson had endeavored to stop the panic. Accompanied by his wife, he started for the stairs when the first alarm was given, but seeing there was no escape, then made his way to the stage. Calling loudly to the frightened people to follow him, he led them to the rear of the stage, and fully 300 escaped in this way.

The alarm had been quickly spread. Persons standing on the street at the entrance to the opera house endeavored to extricate struggling men and women from the rapidly rising pile of bruised and bleeding flesh, but to no purpose. An alarm of fire was sounded, and firemen and policemen hurried to the scene. When they arrived they lent their efforts to saving those still within the building and to opening up the stairway. In ten minutes the opera house was empty, and in half an hour twenty bodies had been recovered.

Of the twenty-six dead thirteen were children, seven pupils in the public schools. To-day it was decided by the school authorities to postpone for a week the opening of the schools.

BREACH IN PARTY CAN'T BE BRIDGED

Taft and Insurgents Have Split Too Far Apart.

BOTH SIDES ARE EAGER FOR FIGHT

From Now On President Will Seek to Drive His Enemies Out of Camp and Secure Renomination and Re-Election Without Their Support.

Washington, August 27.—President Taft does not expect or ask the support of insurgent Republicans. He proposes to make no efforts to conciliate them, but on the contrary, his policy henceforward will be to defy them, to drive them out of the party, and to get his renomination and re-election without them.

Such is the political conclusion from the President's bitter arraignment of the insurgents in his speech at Hamilton, Mass., last evening. After that denunciation, there can be no peace. Mr. Taft will, on his forthcoming Western tour, carry the war right to the States and districts of the insurgents, and make the defiance just as strong as possible.

They Will Reply. The gage will be taken up instantly by the insurgents. Two of their leaders will reply to the Hamilton speech within the next few days. The tariff split in the Republican party is to be ripped wider and longer. All efforts to bandage, stitch and heal it up are at an end.

Senator La Follette, at whom the President aimed his Hamilton invective, will make his first speech, following the close of Congress, to the Pennsylvania State Grange convention at Harrisburg next Thursday. He said to-day that before that occasion he should have no comment to pass upon the President's Massachusetts address.

From this, inference is drawn that the Harrisburg address is likely to sound the counter-defiance of the man whom Mr. Taft designates by name as head of the insurgent movement.

A few days later Representative Norris, of Nebraska, will speak in behalf of the House Insurgents before the Nebraska State Fair. This meeting has been arranged with the frank purpose of having the insurgent cause stated in the plainest possible terms, and Mr. Norris has accepted the commission, with the understanding that he is to tell his reasons why, as a Republican, he asks his State to send an anti-Taft delegation to the national convention next year.

Speech a Surprise. That the President is determined to renew his fight upon the insurgents and carry it right down to the doors of the national convention hall is regarded as certain. In view of his speech at Hamilton, it comes as a surprise to many Progressives, because the tone, manner and temper of the tariff veto handed down in the last days of the Congress session were regarded by such as indicative of willingness to extend the olive branch.

What the President said at Hamilton about the insurgents is just what he has been saying privately for weeks past to sympathetic callers at the White House. He has been bitter in denunciation of what he called "playing politics" with the tariff.

But this tone of voice was excluded from the veto message, giving rise to the belief that the policy was to be one of placating the insurgents. The Hamilton speech ends all possibility of such a course being pursued. The President denounced the anti-Taft Republican leaders in unmeasured terms, and in the speeches on his coming Western trip into the heart of insurgent territory he will have to play the same string.

He cannot escape denouncing La Follette, Bristow, Lincoln, Cummins in Iowa, Bristow, Kansas, Bourne in Oregon, Poindexter in Washington, Clapp in Minnesota.

In doing this he will put an end to all thought of accommodation and reconciliation. The effect of such a contest will be to defeat the insurgent campaign, but for its weight in the election struggle, in which the insurgent West and Middle West will be of crucial importance to the President's prospects for election.

Mr. Taft has reverted to his policy of 1910, when he withdrew his countenance of the administration from those Republicans who had been hostile to him during the Payne-Aldrich re-election. All the influence of the national organization and patronage power were used to defeat these men for renomination. Cannon was sent to Kansas and Sherman to Wisconsin to cry down insurgency. They met such small success that this time the President will himself assume the mission and invade the enemy's country to sound the battle cry against all insurgency.

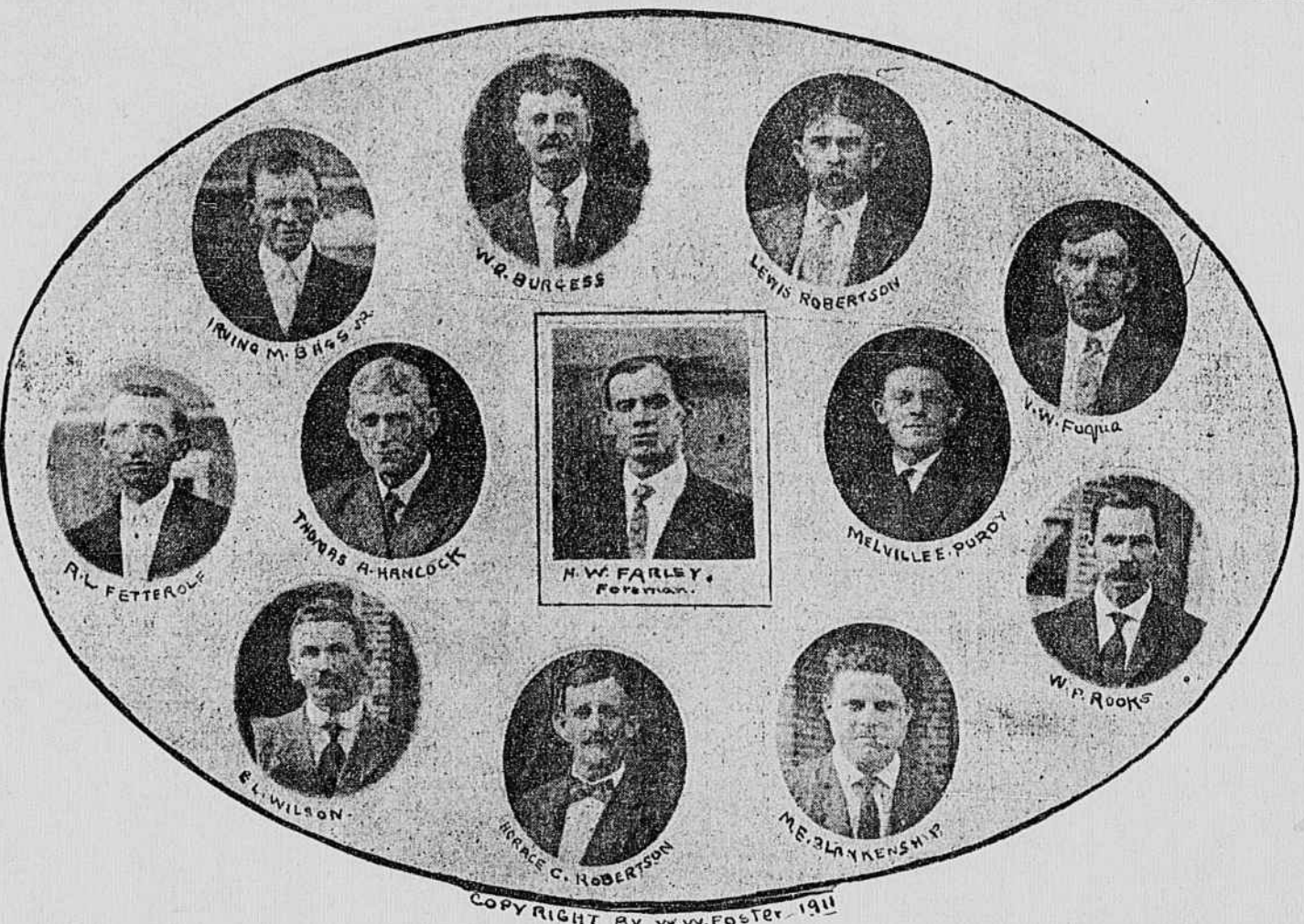
NOTABLE CEREMONY. Consecration of Right Rev. John E. Gunn Will Be Solemnized To-morrow. Atlanta, Ga., August 27.—The consecration of Right Rev. John E. Gunn, Bishop of Natchez will be solemnized here next Tuesday. Prominent clergies from all over the South arrived here to-day for the ceremony.

The consecration ceremony will be conducted by Right Rev. James H. Blunk, archbishop of New Orleans, assisted by the Very Rev. P. H. Hayden, vicar-general and administrator of Natchez, and Father Edward Gunn, a brother of the bishop-elect, who is coming from Dublin, Ireland, especially for the ceremony.

The program of consecrations will begin at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

The ceremonies will extend over a period of about three hours, after which the new bishop will entertain the visiting dignitaries at dinner. A public reception in the evening will conclude the ceremonies.

ANSWERS GIVEN IN COURT BY TWELVE MEN WHO MUST SAY IF BEATTIE SHALL LIVE OR DIE



OPINIONS LARGELY BASED ON WHAT THEY READ

Jurors in the Beattie case were closely questioned by lawyers and court before they were accepted. The examination of the twelve men sworn is given below, exactly as printed in this newspaper at the time:

N. W. FARLEY. In reply to queries N. W. Farley stated that he lived two and one-half miles this side of Petersburg; was born and raised in Chesterfield; was thirty-seven years old, and was a registered voter.

"Mr. Farley," said the court. "The Commonwealth brings an indictment against Beattie, charging him with the murder of his wife. Do you know anything of your own knowledge concerning the murder?"

"Only through the newspapers," answered the venireman.

"Have you heard anything about the crime from people who claim to know about it?"

"No."

"How much do you read the newspapers?"

"Every day. I followed the story carefully, and read up on it pretty good."

"Have the accounts caused you to form an opinion as to whether the prisoner is guilty or not?"

"According to the newspapers my opinion has been formed. Yes, sir."

"Your opinion, you say, has been formed. Is it based on the assumption that the accounts in the papers are true?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, pay attention to what I ask you," said the court. "Have you formed an opinion as to whether the accounts in the papers are true?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then your opinion is based on the assumption of the truth of the accounts?"

"Yes, sir."

"The law says that one must be tried by a fair and impartial jury," said the judge. "Would what you have read impair your judgment, or influence you in deciding the case?"

"No, sir."

"The law," continued Judge Watson.

"assumes that every man charged with a crime is innocent. Can you be guided by this presumption of law and not be influenced otherwise?"

"Yes, sir."

"Are you related by consanguinity or by other ties to the prisoner at the bar, or were you related in like manner to the deceased?"

"No, sir."

"Do you live more than three miles from any point in the Midlothian Turnpike on which the crime was committed?"

"Yes, sir."

"The punishment upon conviction of murder in the first degree is death. Have you any conscientious scruples against the infliction of such punishment?"

"No, sir."

"You said," continued the court, "that you followed the newspaper accounts of the crime closely. Is your opinion decided? Could you act upon the evidence to be brought before a jury and not be guided by a previous opinion?"

"Yes, sir. I would be guided only by the evidence."

The defense was satisfied, and the first man called from the venire was accepted.

E. L. WILSON. E. L. Wilson was then called. After he had answered the usual preliminary questions, he was asked if he had read the papers.

"I don't read the papers much," he replied. "I can read," he explained, "thinking it might be considered that he didn't read much because he couldn't read well. I haven't much faith in newspapers," he went on. "I read about three accounts of the murder, and did not read the papers every day."

"Have you formed an opinion?"

"No, sir. I couldn't. I don't believe much in the papers. I can give a fair trial."

The defense did not question him and he was accepted.

A. L. FETEROLF. A. L. Feterolf said he had read nearly all the accounts of the crime. But the papers had no effect in making him form an opinion, and he had formed none. The papers were one-sided, he said. He had been in Chesterfield twenty-two years and is a

voter. No questions were asked by the defense, and he was accepted.

IRVING M. BASS, JR. Irving M. Bass, Jr., qualified, as he had read little in the papers, and had expressed no opinion and had no scruples against the extreme penalty demanded by law. The defense did not question him, and he was accepted.

B. W. FUQUA. B. W. Fuqua had not expressed an opinion, and could give a fair trial on the legal presumption of the innocence of the prisoner. He was accepted.

W. Q. BURGESS. W. Q. Burgess is fifty-two years of age, and had read newspapers, but his opinion was not such that evidence could not alter it. He believed he could give a trial as though he had never seen the papers, as the newspaper for which he subscribes, he stated, had printed but one side. He was accepted as a juror, though attorneys for the defense noted an exception, since the venireman had admitted that it would require testimony to change his opinion.

MELVILLE E. PURDIE. Melville E. Purdie, aged twenty-seven, was accepted as juror No. 9, to which Mr. Carter excepted, as the witness had formed a certain tentative opinion in the case based on what he had read in newspapers.

HORACE C. ROBERTSON. Horace C. Robertson, aged forty-four, had read but little, subscribing to no paper and having seen but few copies since the killing. He didn't think what he had seen would bias his mind, remarking that "newspaper gossip was of no effect." He was accepted without objection.

THOMAS A. HANCOCK. Thomas A. Hancock, of Skinker, was called. Mr. Hancock had read the papers. He could get rid of his opinion, but would hardly give a trial as though he had read nothing. He did not think what he had read would influence his judgment—it was merely

that he could not forget it. He believed he could give a fair and impartial trial, though remembering what he had read. Cross-examined by Mr. Carter, he stated that what he had read had made an impression, but he could be fair with the prisoner. He had read only one side in the paper to which he

subscribed and had no fixed opinion. He had talked the matter over a good deal and had expressed his views more than once.

He was seated in the jury box, and Mr. Carter noted an exception.

LEWIS ROBERTSON. Lewis Robertson, aged forty-four, of Clover Hill, had heard some newspapers read, but had formed no fixed opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, and had not followed the case closely. He had expressed an opinion and did not think he had talked with any one "to amount to anything" about the case.

"Have you any feeling about the death penalty?" asked the court.

"Yes, I have some feeling about it," answered the venireman. "I have sympathy for the guilty man, but no conscientious scruples against finding a man guilty because the consequence is death."

He was accepted without objection on the part of the defense.

W. P. ROOKS. W. P. Rooks, of Winterpeak, had no personal knowledge of the case, was not related to the accused or his wife, had read a few papers when the crime first happened, and had formed no opinion. He believed he could try the accused the same as though he had not read anything.

He was asked if he would be able to render a verdict on the evidence, and he answered that he would be able to render a verdict on the evidence, and he was accepted without objection on the part of the defense.

M. E. BLANKENSHIP. M. E. Blankenship is thirty-eight years of age, lives near Petersburg and had read the newspapers very little. He had formed no opinion and said he could try the case in the same spirit as though he had read nothing. He had no personal acquaintance with the accused. Cross-examined by Mr. Carter, he said he subscribed to a Petersburg paper, but had read little about the crime. He had talked very little and expressed no opinion regarding the case. Asked as to his occupation, he said he was assistant superintendent of a silk mill. He was accepted without objection.

Attempt Was to Be Made to Overthrow Administration of Honduras. Porto Cortez, Honduras, August 27.—(Via wireless, New Orleans, August 27).—A gigantic revolutionary plot against the administration of Honduras was unearthed August 19, when Theodore Hernandez and M. Ugorta were arrested and letters found revealing the whereabouts of hidden arms and ammunition.

Hernandez is now in jail at San Pedro, where excitement is at fever heat. Ugorta was escorted to the capital, Tegucigalpa, under an armed guard, where he was incarcerated.

Former President Davilla, who was forced from the executive chair by the recent successful revolution headed by General Manuel Bonilla, is now in Salvador and is supposed to be interested in the plot. These arrests were made by orders of provisional President Bertrand.

The letters mentioned that munitions of war were hidden near Pimienta, and that the first move against the administration was to be started at the election next October of General Bonilla, the undisputed candidate for the presidency. General Lee Christman is in Tegucigalpa waiting to make his little army the best drilled and equipped in Central America.

TIDE STEADILY FLOWS AGAINST HENRY BEATTIE

Clear to All Eyes, With Only Half of State's Case Finished.

PRISONER MAY GO UPON STAND

Little to Lose and All to Gain by Giving His Own Statement to Jury—Second Week of Trial Begins To-Day and May Produce Startling Evidence Against Accused.

BY JOSEPH F. GEISINGER. With the Commonwealth's case half finished and the defense not yet begun, where now stands Henry Beattie in the matter of life and death?

That the tide flows steadily against the prisoner for even the casual observer, and is a thing of expectation and not surprise, for now or never, before the opposing guns have opened, is the prosecution's day. At the outset it met bitter disappointment, and ravens croaked and sore-heads groaned. Not before noon of the second day did it strike its stride, but since then has gone evenly and surely on with scarcely a slip. Its net is spreading out, farther already than many had dared expect—and the story is still not done. The climax, like a thunderbolt, may come to-day or not, but certainly by to-morrow.

Not Discouraged. In the meantime the defense works on at its task, saying nothing and overlooking nothing. With steady and relentless fire it has raked the witness chair for three days, and though it has gained little, has certainly prevented some loss. It does not hope to win its cause on the prosecution's evidence, but on its own, and until its hour comes feeds on such bits as it can snatch. These have not been numerous, and, according to many minds, there will be fewer yet from the new witness. However, that may be, counsel are anything but dispirited.

"We do not look discouraged, do we?" asked Mr. Smith yesterday, in response to a query. "Well, we are not—not a particle. You are hearing one side now, but there will be another. Of course, we cannot discuss our case in advance, but when the time comes we will be ready."

Will Henry Beattie take the stand? He probably will. Counsel include this among the matters that cannot be discussed at this time, but an independent opinion would answer the question in the affirmative. Much has been said about McCue's failure to appear in his own behalf, and it has been assumed that, like the Charlottesville juror, Beattie would let his case go to the jury without himself coming forth. But McCue and Beattie are different as the poles in one respect at least. A man of ungovernable temper and uncontrollable rage, McCue, the witness chair, would speedily have been hurled without further effort by the Commonwealth. Experiment proved this beyond question to his worried lawyers. With Beattie it is different. Impassive, unexcitable, he breaks before—

he will face his judges, and tell his story and stick to it. If he is innocent he will naturally do this, and wish to do it; and if he is guilty, he will do it anyhow. There is little to lose here and all to gain. Even the State's lawyers would not hope to rattle this strange young man. Perhaps a little more evidence, otherwise excluded, might be jammed in, but that is all.

What Prosecution Has Done. In the mass of testimony of the first week certain features stand out beyond all others:

The Commonwealth has presented its case and rehearsed for the benefit of the jury a complete history of the crime in all its known bearings.

It has demonstrated its claims, a lack of plausibility in the explanations given by the accused.

It has pointed to certain discrepancies and to certain conflicting statements in the explanations.

It has revealed the intimate relations of the prisoner with another woman and shown by inference his lack of grief at the death of his wife.

It has shown that a man closely resembling Beattie and an automobile closely resembling Beattie's were at the scene of the murder early in the evening, about the time he was due at the Owen house.

It has shown that Beattie explained his delay in arriving at the Owen house by declaring he was stopped by a broken tire.

It has shown that some reason existed why other members of the Owen family did not accompany the couple on the night of the fatal ride, but it has failed to get the nature of this reason before the jury.

It has shown by his own account that Beattie was on the turnpike with his wife between 10:30 and 11 P. M. on July 15.

It has shown that Richmonders returning along the pike that night during the interval mentioned met with two automobiles, one of which, containing several persons, was traveling rapidly toward Bon Air, having already passed the point at which Beattie says he turned, and the other of which was standing still in the road, near the scene of the murder.

It has shown that this standing car was a Buick five-passenger machine, with yellow top, and absent rear doors, all of which description applies to the Beattie machine.

It has shown that with the car were a man and a woman, the latter in a long tan coat such as Mrs. Beattie wore.

It has shown that Beattie has not stated that he made any stop in the road except when held up by the bearded highwayman.

It has shown that the shot was produced by the Commonwealth.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)